

BOROUGH OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.



I N T E R I M

R E P O R T

- of -

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER, 1941.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area (not including foreshore) in acres	3,665
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books (end of 1941)	10,682
Rateable Value	£287,016
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,163

The social conditions are those of a holiday resort and are well described in the special brochure "The Morecambe and Heysham Holiday Pictorial".

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Live Births</u> - Legitimate	460	211	249
Illegitimate	38	22	16
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Total	498	233	265

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	15	8	7
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<u>Deaths.</u>	628	290	338
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Deaths from puerperal causes.

Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	Nil
Other maternal causes	1
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Total	1

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	17	11
Legitimate	13	11
Illegitimate	4	-

Deaths from Cancer.

Cancer of buccal cavity;		
oesophagus; uterus	3	9
" of stomach and duodenum	1	3
" of breast	-	7
" of all other sites	25	23
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Total	29	47

Deaths from Infective Diseases.

Cerebro-spinal fever	2	1
Whooping cough	-	2
Diphtheria	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	12	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-
Syphilitic diseases	1	1
Influenza	7	8
Measles	2	-

<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.</u>	1	-
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2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Changes in Staff during the year.

During the year a Clerk returned to the Cleansing Section of the department after having been discharged from the R.A.F.

Laboratory Facilities.

County Laboratory, Preston.
Pathological Dept., Preston Royal Infirmary.
Lancaster & District Joint Isolation Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities.

1. Corporation ambulance for general use.
2. ambulances owned by the St. John Ambulance Association.
1. fever ambulance provided by the Lancaster & District Joint Hospital Board.

Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing Association (3. Queens Nurses)

Treatment Centres & Clinics.

Eye)	
Dental)	School Clinic, Euston Road
Minor ailments)	

The following are under the authority of the County Council:-

Child Welfare	Parliament Street School
Ante-natal	School Clinic, Euston Road
Orthopaedic	Thurnham House, Lancaster.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Middle Street, Lancaster.
Venereal Diseases	Preston Royal Infirmary

Hospitals.

General and maternity cases	Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe and Heysham.
Infectious cases	Lancaster & District Joint Isolation Hospital, Lancaster.
Smallpox cases	Smallpox Hospital, Littlefell, Lancaster.

Nursing Homes.- Registered

Medical, surgery and maternity.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity. 12 chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out during the year with satisfactory results. The degree of permanent hardness is 5 (Clarks method). There is no lead solvent action.

The steps taken against war risks have been the installation of three automatic and one manual chlorinators at the Filter Houses. One manual chlorinator is still in operation at Damas Ghyll reservoir.

Rivers and Streams.

There have been no developments during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of houses on water carriage system	10,679
No. of fresh water closets	12,000
No. of waste water closets	36
No. of closets attached to middens	5

Public Cleansing.

This work has been satisfactorily carried out on the system of previous years.

Salvage - Statistics for the Year.

<u>Material.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>			<u>Value.</u>		
	Tons	Cwts	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	513	16	28	2406.	14.	9.
"Black" Scrap	30	3	-	70.	15.	2.
Baled Scrap	207	1	28	302.	18.	5.
Non-ferrous metals	2	12	-	79.	6.	3.
Textiles (including string)	32	-	-	267.	6.	3.
Bottles & Jars (3826 doz.)	19	12	28	98.	7.	0.
Cullet (Broken glass)	3	-	-		15.	0.
Rubber	10	14	-	34.	13.	7.
Miscellaneous	2	3	28	14.	9.	0.
Bones	20	3	56	51.	12.	3.
Fertiliser	44	15	28	536.	10.	6.
	886	-	84	£3,863.	8.	2.

Material received from outside districts during the year:-

Paper	9	7	56
Tins, etc.	105	14	84

Amount of salvage sold by other departments:-

3 - 6. 0. 0.

Value of steam raised from refuse £315. 0. 0.

Swimming Baths.

Number of persons using the baths during the season 1941 was 145,208, of whom approximately 50% were juniors.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

30 premises were dealt with during the year by means of fumigation with sulphur and spraying with proprietary insecticides.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of and water supply to the schools are satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.

No. of premises registered - 4, namely, 2 tripe dressers, 1. gut scraper and 1. fat melter.

Factories Act, 1937.

Little action possible during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

None on the register.

Houses let in lodgings.

None on the register.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

8 inspections were made during the year.

Underground sleeping rooms.

No action required.

Overcrowding.

Population movements as a result of the war provide difficulties that must be accepted for the time being.

Clearance and improvement areas.

No action taken.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The usual work was satisfactorily performed.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following tables show the notifications of infectious diseases for the year.

In comparison with the figures for 1940, there was a marked decline in measles, from 497 cases in 1940 to 171 cases in 1941. Compared with 1940 there was an increase in cases of paratyphoid fever from 3 to 9 and slight increases in whooping cough and pneumonia.

The notifications of, and the deaths from, Respiratory Tuberculosis in the 3 years 1939-40-41 were as follows:-

	1939		1940		1941	
	New Noti- fications	Deaths	New Noti- fications	Deaths	New Noti- fications	Deaths
M.	7	9	17	6	27	13
F.	16	5	15	4	19	3
Total	23	14	32	10	46	16

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	AGE PERIOD IN YEARS											Total cases	Cases removed to hospital	Deaths in hospital.	Total deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-				
Scarlet Fever			3	4	4	26	5	4	7	1	1	55	50		
Diphtheria		1	1	2	1	13	4	4	15	3	1	45	45	2	2
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)					1	1		3	1	3		9	9		
Measles (excluding German measles)	8	31	19	14	14	47	7	9	21		1	171	3		2
Whooping cough	11	13	9	14	9	17	2		3	1		79			2
Acute pneu- monia (pri- mary and influenzal)	1	1		1		5		15	26	3	15	67			5
Puerperal Pyrexia									4			4	2		
Cerebro- spinal fever	2	1	2		1	4		6	20	2	3	41	41	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2											2	1		
Erysipelas						1		1	6	3	4	15	6		
TOTALS	24	47	34	35	30	114	18	42	103	16	25	488	157	5	14

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>AGE PERIODS</u> <u>YEARS.</u>	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5			3					
5 - 10			3	1			1	
10 - 15								
15 - 20	2	1						
20 - 25	1	10						
25 - 35	4	6		1	3	1		
35 - 45	4	2			3	1		
45 - 55	4			2	2	1		
55 - 65	7				3			
65 and upwards	5				2			
TOTALS	27	19	6	4	13	3	1	1
	46		10		16		1	

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE A.

I. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1941.

No. inspected by Medical Officer	No. inspected by Sanitary Inspector	No. reported to be defective	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied	No. of vessels reported as having or having had during voyage infectious disease on board
	Nil			

TABLE B.

Omitted on Ministry of Health instructions.

III. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

Water is obtained from the town supply for the port and for shipping.

No water vessels are employed; vessels taking in water from stand pipes alongside.

IV. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933:

- (1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health. This is usually received by the Customs Officer and handed later to the Sanitary Authority.
- (2) Boarding vessels on arrival. By Customs Officer and by Officer of Sanitary Authority.
- (3) Notification to the authority of vessels requiring special attention. Customs Officer notifies Medical Officer of Health by telephone.
- (4) Mooring stations designated under Act 10.
 - (a) Inner mooring. For cases of smallpox and typhus. Easterly end of north side.
 - (b) Outer mooring. For cases of cholera, yellow fever and plague. At Lune Deeps.
- (5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from provisions of Article 14. All ordinary notifiable infectious diseases other than those specified under (4).
- (6) Experience of working of Article 16. No experience.
- (7) Arrangements for:-
 - (a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination. No special premises have been provided. There is no foreign passenger traffic. Members of the crew would be examined on board.
 - (b) Premises for temporary accommodation of persons. No special premises.
 - (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships. A steam disinfecter is provided for bedding and clothing. Appliances and materials are available for the disinfecting of ships and this would be carried out by the Health Department staff.
 - (d) Hospital Accommodation.

A hospital provided by a Joint Board on which this Sanitary Authority is represented, is now available for all cases except smallpox. For smallpox cases the Sanitary Authority has an agreement with the Lancaster Corporation for the reception of seaborne cases in their hospital. This agreement will continue until the Joint Board make suitable provision.
 - (e) Ambulance transport.

A special motor ambulance is available with attendants.

- (f) Supervision of contacts.
Contacts requiring to be kept under surveillance would be kept on board or accommodated at hospital.
- (8 & 9) Arrangements for bacteriological or pathological examinations of rats and other materials. Submitted to bacteriologists ordinarily employed by the Public Health Authority. Usually the Public Health Laboratories, Manchester University.
- (10) Venereal Diseases. No special arrangements for sailors. Facilities arranged by the County Council are available.
- (11) Arrangements for interment of dead. In cemeteries provided by the Sanitary Authority.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Disease landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Disease occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival of vessel.

Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

No special measures have been necessary, the port being remarkably free from rats.

VI. FOOD INSPECTION.

Periodical visits are made for the purpose of the Imported Food Regulations.

Visits are also made for the purpose of examining carcasses of animals slaughtered on board or after detention on landing.

MILK SAMPLES ANALYSED.

9 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

18 samples were taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and, in one case, were unsatisfactory.